

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system ~~is provided, the~~
2 ~~system~~ having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions,
3 collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the
4 transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting
5 funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive
6 communications network, the system comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

10 and

11 a service provider computer system to which the merchant is subscribed, the service
12 provider computer system comprising:

13 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
14 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

15 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
16 another;

17 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
18 one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the transactional
19 data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing
20 operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any
21 taxes due on the corresponding transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and~~
22 ~~accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and~~
23 ~~accruals which may require human intervention~~, and storing the tax due ~~on any remaining~~
24 ~~taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention~~ in a second selected first
25 database file; and

26 a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at
27 least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second
28 selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an

29 automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the
30 network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the
31 transactional data to the government authority.

1 2. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system ~~is provided, the~~
2 ~~system~~ having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions,
3 collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the
4 transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting
5 funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive
6 communications network, the system comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

10 a service provider computer system to which the merchant is subscribed, the service
11 provider computer system comprising:

12 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
13 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

14 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
15 another;

16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the transactional
18 data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing
19 operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any
20 taxes due on the corresponding transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and~~
21 ~~accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and~~
22 ~~accruals which may require human intervention~~, and storing the tax due ~~on any remaining~~
23 ~~taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention~~ in a second selected first
24 database file;

25 a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at
26 least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second

27 selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an
28 automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the
29 network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the
30 transactional data to the government authority;

31 a fifth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least
32 one application redundant to that of the third server; and

33 a sixth server hosting a sixth virtual portal, the sixth virtual portal having at least
34 one application redundant to that of the fourth server.

1 3. (Cancelled)

1 4. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled system ~~is provided, the~~
2 ~~system~~ having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions,
3 collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the
4 transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting
5 funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authorities over an interactive
6 communications network, the system comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;
10 and

11 a service provider computer system to which the merchant is subscribed, the service
12 provider computer system comprising:

13 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
14 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

15 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
16 another;

17 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
18 one application for receiving transactional data from the second server, parsing the transactional
19 data received for XML-based data, interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing

operations, storing the XML-based data in a first selected file of a first database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention~~, and storing the tax due on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention in a second selected first database file; and

a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at least one application for receiving XML-based data from the third server, converting the second selected first database file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

at least one application for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, for system backup and recovery operations, for system real-time and continuous accessibility, for operating system monitoring and for system load balancing and scalability.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled, ~~service provider~~ system having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:

a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

a service provider computer system to which the merchant is subscribed, the service provider computer system comprising:

12 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
13 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

14 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
15 another;

16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-
18 based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and

19 a fourth server processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server
20 including

21 a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which
22 comprise an applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax
23 remittance module, the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the
24 transactional data in a first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the
25 corresponding transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting~~
26 ~~any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may~~
27 ~~require human intervention~~, storing the tax due ~~on any remaining taxable transaction that does~~
28 ~~not otherwise require human intervention~~ in a second selected file of the database, converting the
29 second file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated
30 clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a
31 selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the
32 government authority; and

33 an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular
34 functions including a security module for insuring system security over the interactive
35 communications network, a system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous
36 accessibility module, a system monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability
37 module.

1 7. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled, ~~service provider~~ system
2 having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions,
3 collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the
4 transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting
5 funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive
6 communications network, the system comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

10 a service provider computer system to which the merchant is subscribed, the service
11 provider computer system comprising:

12 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
13 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

14 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
15 another;

16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-
18 based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and

19 a fourth server processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server
20 including

21 a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which
22 comprise an applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax
23 remittance module, the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the
24 transactional data in a first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the
25 corresponding transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting~~
26 ~~any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may~~
27 ~~require human intervention~~, storing the tax due ~~on any remaining taxable transaction that does~~
28 ~~not otherwise require human intervention~~ in a second selected file of the database, converting the
29 second file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated
30 clearinghouse network, and periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a
31 selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the
32 government authority; and

33 an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular
34 functions including a security module for insuring system security over the interactive
35 communications network, a system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous
36 accessibility module, a system monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability
37 module;

38 a fifth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least
39 one application redundant to that of the third server; and

40 a sixth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the sixth virtual portal having at least
41 one application redundant to that of the fourth server.

1 8. (Cancelled)

1 9. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled, ~~service provider~~ system
2 having modular programming for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions,
3 collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the
4 transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting
5 funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive
6 communications network, the system comprising:

7 a first server associated with a merchant and hosting a first virtual portal, the first virtual
8 portal having at least one application for providing e-content to end users, the application
9 including a network browser for accessing, displaying and transmitting data over the network;

10 a service provider computer system to which the merchant is subscribed, the service
11 provider computer system comprising:

12 a second server hosting a second virtual portal, the second virtual portal having at
13 least one application for receiving data from the first server and for parsing the data received;

14 a communications infrastructure linking the first and second servers to one
15 another;

16 a third server hosting a third virtual portal, the third virtual portal having at least
17 one application for receiving data from the second server, parsing the data received for XML-
18 based data and interpreting the XML-based data for selected data processing operations; and

19 a fourth server hosting a fourth virtual portal, the fourth virtual portal having at
20 least one application for processing XML-based data from the third server, the fourth server
21 including a network service module having a plurality of modular functions, which comprise an
22 applications module, a database module, a tax computation module and a tax remittance module,
23 the service module receiving XML-based transactional data, storing the transactional data in a
24 first selected file of the database, computing any taxes due on the corresponding transaction
25 ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction~~
26 ~~regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention,~~
27 storing the tax due ~~on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human~~
28 ~~intervention~~ in a second selected file of the database, converting the second file from an XML-
29 based format to a TXP-based format for receipt by an automated clearinghouse network, and
30 periodically transmitting the second file, through the network, to a selected financial institution
31 for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority; and

32 a fifth server hosting a fifth virtual portal, the fifth virtual portal having at least
33 one application for processing XML-based data from the third server, the fifth server including
34 an infrastructure service module having a series of discrete modular functions, including a
35 security module for insuring system security over the interactive communications network, a

36 system backup and recovery module, a real-time and continuous accessibility module, a system
37 monitoring module and a system load balancing and scalability module.

1 10. (Currently Amended) ~~An intelligent, program-controlled apparatus~~ A service
2 provider computer system for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting
3 data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions,
4 reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds
5 corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications
6 network, the ~~apparatus~~ service provider computer system having a modular architecture which
7 comprises:

8 a web server to receive XML-based transactional data from servers associated with
9 corresponding merchants that are subscribers of the service provider computer system;

10 a first device having modular applications programming for receiving the XML-based
11 transactional data from ~~a Web-based~~ the web server and storing the data in a first selected file;

12 a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

13 a third device having modular tax computation programming for computing any taxes
14 due on the corresponding transactions ~~transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments~~
15 ~~and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and~~
16 ~~accruals which may require human intervention~~, and effecting storage of the ~~tax~~ taxes due on ~~any~~
17 ~~remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention~~ in a second
18 selected file ~~of the database~~; and

19 a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second
20 selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated
21 clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected
22 financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the
23 government authority.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A program controlled apparatus for automatically identifying
2 taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time
3 any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and
4 periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an
5 interactive communications network, the apparatus having modular architecture which
6 comprises:

7 a first device having modular interface programming for a subscriber system that
8 electronically contacts a service provider each time a taxable transaction is initiated, wherein the
9 subscriber system is associated with a merchant that is a subscriber of the service provider;
10 a service provider computer system associated with the service provider, comprising:

11 a second device having modular tax computation programming operating on a
12 server of ~~[[a]]~~ the service provider computer system, the programming identifying the
13 jurisdiction from which the merchandise purchased has been shipped, the jurisdiction to which
14 the merchandise is shipped, the effective tax rates applicable from each jurisdiction;

15 a third device having modular transaction processing programming for
16 consummating the transaction requested, the modular tax computation programming of the
17 second device calculating any taxes due on the transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for~~
18 ~~payments and accruals, and extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for~~
19 ~~payments and accruals which may require human intervention;~~

20 a fourth device having modular funds transfer programming for automatically
21 receiving information on the transaction consummation and effecting electronic transfer of the
22 funds corresponding to the taxes ~~owed on these taxable transactions that do not otherwise require~~
23 ~~human intervention~~ due to an account of a selected financial institution;

24 a fifth device having modular tax payment programming for periodic transfer of
25 funds aggregated in the account to at least one account of the government authority;

26 a sixth device having modular reporting and/or auditing programming for
27 generating interactive reports and for permitting auditing by the government authority; and

28 a seventh device having modular tax return programming for automated
29 generation of a tax return and transmitting the return electronically to the government authority.

12. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled service provider system having architecture for providing tax computation and remittance services over an interactive communications network, the service provider system including:

a web server to receive XML-based transactional data from servers associated with corresponding merchants that are subscribers of the service provider system;

a first device having modular applications programming for receiving the XML-based transactional data from ~~a Web-based~~ the web server and storing the data in a first selected file;

a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;

a third device having modular tax computation programming for computing in real-time any taxes due on the corresponding transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals which may require human intervention~~, and effecting storage of the amount taxes due ~~on any remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention~~ in a second selected file ~~of the database~~; and

a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the government authority.

13. (Currently Amended) An intelligent, program controlled service provider system having modular architecture for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to the government authority over an interactive communications network, the service provider system comprising:

a web server to receive XML-based transactional data from servers associated with corresponding merchants that are subscribers of the service provider computer system;

a first device having modular applications programming for receiving the XML-based transactional data from ~~a Web-based~~ the web server and storing the data in a first selected file;

11 a second device having modular database programming for storing the first selected file;
12 a third device having modular tax computation programming computing any taxes due on
13 the corresponding transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals,~~
14 ~~extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals~~
15 ~~which may require human intervention~~, and effecting storage of the amount taxes due on any
16 ~~remaining taxable transaction that does not otherwise require human intervention~~ in a second
17 selected file ~~of the database~~; and
18 a fourth device having modular tax remittance programming for converting the second
19 selected file from an XML-based format to a TXP-based format for use in an automated
20 clearinghouse network and periodically transmitting the file, through the network, to a selected
21 financial institution for remission of funds corresponding to the transactional data to the
22 government authority.

1 14. (Currently Amended) A program controlled system having modular architecture
2 for automatically identifying taxable financial transactions, collecting data based on the
3 transactions, calculating in real-time any taxes due on the transactions, reporting the same to a
4 selected government authority, and periodically remitting funds corresponding to the tax owed to
5 the government authority over an interactive communications network, the system comprising:
6 a first device having modular interface programming for a subscriber system that
7 electronically contacts a service provider ~~system~~ each time a taxable transaction is initiated,
8 wherein the subscriber system is associated with a merchant that is a subscriber of the service
9 provider;

10 a service provider computer system associated with the service provider, comprising:
11 a second device having modular tax computation programming operating on a
12 server of ~~[[a]]~~ the service provider computer system, the programming identifying the
13 jurisdiction from which the merchandise purchased has been shipped, the jurisdiction to which
14 the merchandise is shipped, the effective tax rates applicable from each jurisdiction, ~~calculating~~
15 ~~any taxes due on the transaction including sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals, and~~
16 ~~extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for payments and accruals~~
17 ~~which may require human intervention~~;

18 a third device having modular transaction processing programming for
19 consummating the transaction requested, the modular tax computation programming of the
20 second device calculating any taxes due on the transaction ~~including sales and/or use tax for~~
21 ~~payments and accruals, and extracting any taxable transaction regarding sales and/or use tax for~~
22 ~~payments and accruals which may require human intervention;~~

23 a fourth device having modular funds transfer programming for automatically
24 receiving information on the transaction consummation and effecting electronic transfer of the
25 funds corresponding to the taxes ~~owed on these taxable transactions that do not otherwise require~~
26 ~~human intervention~~ due to an account of a selected financial institution;

27 a fifth device having modular tax payment programming for periodic transfer of
28 funds aggregated in the account to at least one account of the government authority;

29 a sixth device having modular reporting and auditing programming for generating
30 interactive reports and for permitting auditing by the government authority; and

31 a seventh device having modular tax return programming for automated
32 generation of a tax return and transmitting the return electronically to the government authority.

1 15. – 16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (New) The intelligent, program controlled system of claim 1, wherein the service
2 provider computer system further comprises an automated tax return generation and electronic
3 filing system to generate and electronically file a periodic tax return with the selected
4 government authority.

1 18. (New) The intelligent, program controlled system of claim 17, wherein the
2 service provider computer system further comprises a reporting system to generate a report of
3 taxes due to the selected government authority.

1 19. (New) The intelligent, program controlled system of claim 1, further comprising
2 at least one other first server associated with a second merchant that is subscribed to the service
3 provider computer system, the second virtual portal to further receive data from the at least one
4 other first server and to parse the data received from the at least one other server.

1 20. (New) A service provider computer system to provide a tax calculation and
2 payment service, the service provider computer system comprising:

3 a web server to receive transaction requests from subscriber computer systems associated
4 with corresponding merchants who have subscribed to the tax calculation and payment service;

5 one or more additional servers having a services module executable in the one or more
6 additional servers, the services module comprising:

7 a first module to store transaction data of the transaction requests in at least one
8 first file;

9 a tax computation module to compute tax due on transactions corresponding to
10 the transaction data and to store the tax due in at least one second file; and

11 a tax remission module to convert the at least one second file from a first format
12 to a second format for use by an automated clearinghouse network, and the tax remission module
13 to transmit the at least one second file in the second format to a financial institution for remission
14 of funds relating to the tax due.

1 21. (New) The service provider computer system of claim 20, wherein the services
2 module further comprises an automated tax return generation module to generate and
3 electronically file a periodic tax return for each merchant.

1 22. (New) The service provider computer system of claim 21, wherein the services
2 module further comprises a reporting module to report tax information related to the transactions
3 to one or more government authorities.

1 23. (New) The service provider computer system of claim 20, wherein the first
2 format comprises an XML format.

- 1 24. (New) The service provider computer system of claim 10, wherein the modular
- 2 architecture further comprises a fifth device having tax return generation programming to
- 3 generate and file a periodic tax return for each merchant.